

air, and had a grand outlook from that lofty height.

And so, in life's journey, we are climbing. We are feeble. Every one of us, now and then, needs a little help; and, if we have risen a step higher than some other, let us reach down for our brother's hand, and help him to stand beside us. And thus, joined hand in hand, we shall go on conquering, step by step, until the glorious eminence shall be gained. Ah, how many need help in this world—poor afflicted ones; poor sorrowing ones; poor tempted ones, who have been overcome, who have been struggling, not quite able to get up the step; trying, falling; trying, falling; trying, desponding; hoping, almost despairing! Oh, give such a one help, a little kindly aid, and the step may be taken, and another step may then be taken; and, instead of dying in wretchedness at the base, he may, by a brother's hand, be raised to safety, and finally to glory.—*Bishop Simpson.*

#### MURMURING MERCHANT.

A merchant was one day returning from market. He was on horseback, and behind him was a valise filled with money. The rain fell with violence, and the good old man was wet to his skin. At this he was vexed, and murmured because God had given him such bad weather for his journey. He soon reached the borders of a thick forest. What was his terror on beholding on one side of the road a robber, with levelled gun, aiming at him, and attempting to fire! But the powder being wet by the rain, the gun did not go off, and the merchant giving spurs to his horse, fortunately had time to escape. As soon as he found himself safe, he said to himself, "How wrong was I not to endure the rain patiently as sent by Providence. If the weather had been dry and fair, I should not probably have been alive at this hour, and my little children would have expected my return in vain. The rain which caused me to murmur, came at a fortunate moment to save my life and preserve my property." And thus it is with a multitude of our afflictions; by causing us slight and short sufferings, they preserve us from others far greater and of much longer duration.—*Selected.*

#### VACATION MISSIONARY WORK.

Sinners and saints are entitled to gospel truth all the year round. Pastors and teachers may have to rest from their labors in order to get strength to go on again, but their field of labor ought not to be uncared for meantime. A church or a Sunday school that is not kept up summer and winter cannot have any continuous life. It is never more than eight or ten

months old. The poorest of excuses for a closed church or Sunday school is that its leader has to be away, and the organization cannot live without him. It is to the credit of Roman Catholic churches that their services are kept up even though the local priest is temporarily absent. There are protestant churches that do similarly. It is a pity that there are any which do not. There ought to be missionary work done in the neglected fields of city Protestant churches and Sunday schools.—*Sunday School Times.*

#### SPLINTERS.

It is a great thing to die a Christian death; it is a greater thing to live a Christian life.

It is a great thing to have a clear head; it is a greater thing to have a clean heart.

It is a great thing to take care of the mortal body; it is a greater thing to take care of the immortal soul.

It is a great thing to be diligent in respect of things that are seen and temporal; it is a greater thing to be diligent in respect of those things that are unseen and eternal.—*James McLeod.*

It is the pin pricks of life that try the mettle of the strongest characters. To meet misfortune bravely, to show patience and devotion to a fractious invalid, to bear pain and suffering with fortitude and resignation, or to endure loss of fortune with equanimity and courage—all this would be and is comparatively easy to many natures who succumb completely to little every day troubles and annoyances, losing their temper over trifles and exaggerating small vexations, making continually the worst instead of the best of their immediate surroundings, and rendering themselves and others thoroughly uncomfortable. "To do our duty in that state of life in which it has pleased God to put us," and not to seek another, and as we are ignorantly apt to think a broader sphere is a lesson that it would be well if people would ponder and apply to their own immediate responsibilities.

Let the road be long and dreary,  
And its ending out of sight,  
Foot it bravely, never weary—  
Trust in God, and do the right!

Simple rule and safest guiding,  
Inward peace and inward light,  
Stars upon our path abiding—  
Trust in God, and do the right!

—*Norman Macleod.*

Willingness to undertake the most difficult thing for Christ is Christian enterprise.

Old age is the twilight of eternity.—*D'Huart.*

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